

The Story of Old  
**PETERSBURG**  
and  
**SOUTHSIDE  
VIRGINIA**



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**PETERSBURG**  
AND SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA

*Published by*  
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J. T. MORRISS & SON, INC.



## FOREWORD

Through this little booklet, we have tried to pay tribute to the memory of those brave men of Petersburg and Southside Virginia who in the past labored and fought for the honor and glory of old Virginia. It is our hope that this booklet will help to keep alive the many fine traditions of this, our own state.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A booklet of this nature involves in its preparation the cooperation of many individuals and organizations. We are grateful to all of them, too many to mention here. However, we do want to pay special tribute to those organizations which have been so active in cherishing and perpetuating the memories and historical sites of Petersburg and Southside Virginia:

*The Frances Bland Randolph Chapter of the D. A. R.*

*The Colonel John Banister Chapter of the D. A. R.*

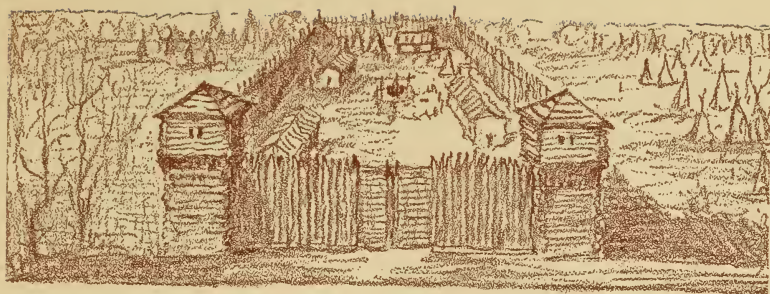
*The United Daughters of the Confederacy.*

*The Association for the Preservation of Petersburg  
Antiquities.*

*The Petersburg Garden Club.*

*The Petersburg Art League.*

§ Drawings of buildings, monuments, and his- §  
§ torical sites by Frederick Polley, Indianapolis. §



FORT HENRY. Built in 1646 "for the defense of the inhabitants on the south side of the James River."

## COLONIAL DAYS

In all the history of America, there is no story more thrilling than the story of Petersburg and Southside Virginia. With a history dating back to May 8, 1607, when the first colonists to these shores came to the mouth of the Appomattox River seeking a site for settlement, Petersburg has had a glorious and at times a tragic past.

Captain John Smith visited the site of Petersburg in 1608 and while on a scouting expedition was captured by the tribe of Chief Powhatan, father of Pocahontas. The young princess interceded with her father and his life was spared. Later, she



POCAHONTAS BASIN. Tradition says this is the basin in which Pocahontas bathed.

THOMAS ROLFE HOUSE. A "fifty foot brick house" built about 1651 on Smith's Fort Plantation near Surry Courthouse—land given to Thomas Rolfe, son of Pocahontas, by Chief Powhatan. Now owned by the Thomas Rolfe Chapter of the A. P. V. A.



married John Rolfe, another Jamestown settler, and traveled to England with him where she was presented at Court. Smith's Fort and the home of John Rolfe in Jamestown were built on land given to Rolfe by the Indian chieftain.

In 1646, Governor Sir William Berkeley built a fort on the Appomattox River where the McKenzie House now stands and named it Fort Henry. This was the actual beginning of the city. The Government was unable to maintain the fort and shortly leased it to Abraham Wood, its commander.

Under the capable and energetic leadership of Wood, Fort Henry flourished and became not only



JAMESTOWN RUINS. The Jamestown Church Tower was long the only visible relic of old Jamestown. It was built of handmade bricks and mortar laid in English bond. The Tower has withstood three centuries of wind and rain.





RESIDENCE OF CAPTAIN Fflood. *This old house, built about 1646, is on the site of Fort Henry. It is said by many to have been the dwelling of Captain Fflood, early Indian interpreter.*

the foremost fort in Southside Virginia but also one of the most important trading posts with the Indians. From its warehouses were sent out articles used in Indian trade and from its strong palisades went forth expeditions into the vast, unknown wilderness stretching endlessly toward the west.

In 1650, Wood and Edmund Bland led an expedition from Fort Henry into the country beyond. Guides and hunters were furnished by the Appomattox Indians who were friendly to them. After weeks of hardships and dangers, the explorers reached the falls of the Roanoke River near the present North Carolina line.

Twenty-one years later another expedition composed of Robert Fallam, Thomas Batts, and

BACON'S CASTLE. *Built by Arthur Allen, who came from England in 1646. During Bacon's Rebellion, the house was seized, fortified, and used as a stronghold for a party of Bacon's men.*





PETER JONES' TRADING STATION. Built before 1675. It was the foremost post in southern Virginia for trade with the Indians.

Thomas Wood started out from Fort Henry and this time succeeded in crossing the Appalachian Mountains. They reached New River before returning to the fort after the absence of exactly one month. This was one of the most important expeditions ever made by the English. It was followed by the penetration of the Ohio Valley by Indian traders.

Still a third expedition left Fort Henry in 1673, headed by James Needham. Despite the fact that Needham was killed, the party was successful

MERCHANT'S HOPE CHURCH. Built in 1677. Nearby was the first Prince George Court-house.





FOLLY CASTLE. Town house of Peter Jones II, built in 1673. It was called Folly Castle because it was a large house for a childless man. Major Erasmus Gill, Revolutionary soldier, also lived there.



in reaching the Cherokee Indians. Through the exploits of these brave pioneers, the conquest and settlement of the middle west was made possible.

It was during this period of exploration that Major Peter Jones succeeded Abraham Wood as commander of Fort Henry, and owner of the trading post with the Indians. "Peter's Point" or "Petersburg," as it was soon to be known, grew and by 1733 when William Byrd claimed to have "laid the foundation" of Petersburg, it was actually an old settlement.

Peter Jones II, following in the footsteps of



STIRLING CASTLE. Country home of Peter Jones II, originally erected in Dinwiddie County.

PRIDE'S TAVERN. *This old structure was near Pride's Race Track, one of the first racing courses in America.*



his grandfather, became Petersburg's wealthiest and most influential citizen. He built two houses which are still in existence—"Folly Castle" on Washington Street and "Stirling Castle" on High Street. (The latter house was moved from Dinwiddie County.)

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Petersburg, and that section surrounding it, had a most important place in the closing years of the Revolutionary War. Its strategic location in the very center of Southside Virginia made it a point



BRUTON PARISH CHURCH. *Located in Williamsburg. Completed in 1715 upon the site of an earlier church. Many famous personages are buried in its aisles and churchyard.*



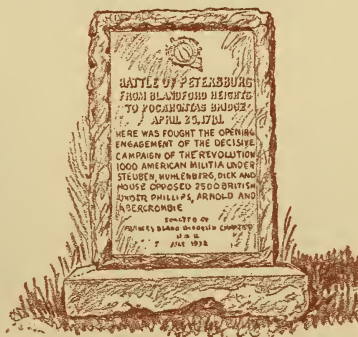
GOLDEN BALL TAVERN. *British officers were quartered here during the occupation of 1781. Ten years later it was visited by Washington.*

of great consequence in the decisive Virginia campaign of 1781.

Benedict Arnold, commanding a British army, came up the James River in January, 1781. He pillaged Richmond, and then retired to Portsmouth where he was joined by General Phillips. The two armies again came up the James, plundering and burning everything in their path. On April 24, they landed troops at City Point and marched directly on Petersburg.

But they were not to take Petersburg without

MONUMENT TO THE BATTLE OF PETERSBURG. *This monument honors the small force of militia which made a brave resistance to 2,500 British regulars, April 25, 1781.*





**TRAPEZIUM HOUSE.** *Built in 1816. There are no right angles in its construction, an East Indian superstition. This building now serves as headquarters for the Association for the Preservation of Petersburg Antiquities.*

a struggle. When they reached the city they were met by a force of 1,000 militiamen under the command of General Muhlenberg, Colonel Dick, and Baron Steuben. To the surprise of the British, the militiamen put up stout resistance against their vastly superior force of 2,500 men, and retired in good order through the streets of Petersburg and across the bridge over the Appomattox.

The British took possession and General Phillips made his headquarters at East Hill. From here he campaigned toward Richmond, but was stopped

**BATTERSEA, 1760.** *Home of John Banister, Revolutionary soldier and first Mayor of Petersburg. British officers were quartered here. This home was also visited by many famous people, including Chastellux, French traveler, and the Italian Count Castiglioni.*





COURTHOUSE. Built in 1835, a reproduction of the Chapel of St. Mary Le Bow, London, a Sir Christopher Wren design. The tower was added to the reproduction.



by the arrival of Lafayette with a part of the Continental Army.

Lafayette moved toward Petersburg and at the same time Phillips and Arnold returned to it. Phillips, taken ill, died at East Hill a few days after the house was bombarded by Lafayette. He was succeeded by Arnold.

Arnold waited in Petersburg for Lord Cornwallis to arrive from Wilmington, North Carolina. Lafayette, unable to dislodge him from his position, crossed to the north side of the James. On May 20,



CHIPPOKES. Opposite Jamestown Island. A fine type of old Virginia plantation. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Victor W. Stewart.

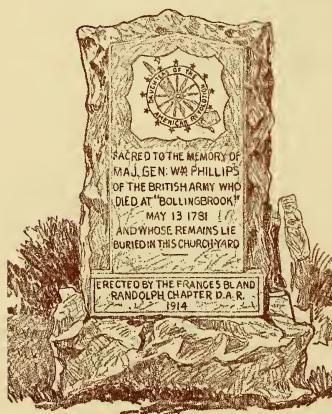


DODSON'S TAVERN. *Aaron Burr and his daughter, Theodosia, visited here in 1815.*



Lord Cornwallis reached Petersburg and joined under his command all the British forces in Virginia.

Leaving the town, May 24, 1781, the British marched to Westover where they crossed the James. The plan was to capture Lafayette who was on the James near Richmond, but Lafayette outwitted Cornwallis and escaped northward. Cornwallis followed, and after marching and counter-marching, finally returned to the coast and settled



PHILLIPS MONUMENT. *This monument in old Blandford Cemetery marks the grave of Major General Wm. Phillips of the British army, who died at "Bollingbrook," May 13, 1781.*



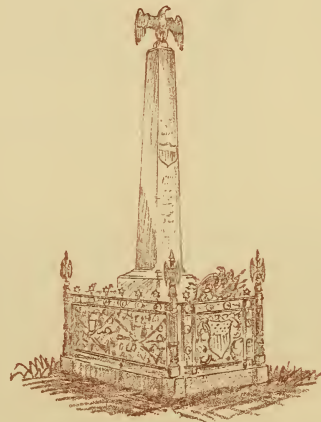
GENERAL LEE'S HEADQUARTERS. *This house is one of three occupied by General Lee in 1864 during the siege. He moved thence to Edge Hill to be in closer touch with his right wing.*

at Yorktown where he and his army were finally captured, ending the war.

## WAR OF 1812

The valor of the brave men of Petersburg once more was put to the test in the War of 1812. The Petersburg soldiers so distinguished themselves at Fort Meigs, in 1813, that President Madison gave the town the name of "The Cockade City of the Union." The cockade was a part of the uniform of the Petersburg Volunteers, captained by

**MCRÆ MONUMENT.** *A monument to the captain of the Petersburg Volunteers, who distinguished themselves in the War of 1812 and won for Petersburg the name of the "Cockade City."*





**BURNT QUARTER.** *A Colonial farm house built about 1737. Between the lines of fire at the Battle of Five Forks. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wheeler.*

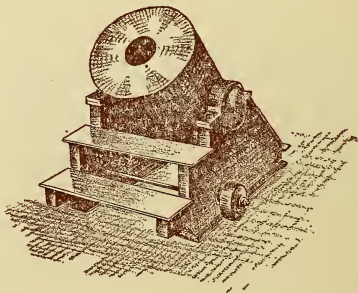
Richard McRae, whose monument may be seen in Blandford Cemetery.

## WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

As was to be expected, Petersburg responded promptly to the call for volunteers in 1861. Out of the town's white population of less than 10,000, seventeen companies were furnished the fighting forces of the South.

In the early years of the war, the city was not the scene of any actual fighting, although McClellan wished to take it in 1862 after the failure of the Richmond campaign. In the latter part of the same year, Petersburg became the headquarters of Longstreet, commanding in southern Virginia and North

**MORTAR IN BATTERY FIVE.** *The original Dictator was used by Grant in the siege of Petersburg. It threw shells three miles into the city.*



VIOLET BANK. *Old estate of John Shure. Headquarters of General Lee from June to September, 1864. A part of the house used as a Confederate hospital was shot away.*



Carolina, and from it he moved to the siege of Suffolk in 1863.

However, Petersburg was to see plenty of war before the struggle ended. Early in May, 1864, General B. F. Butler landed at Bermuda Hundred with the Army of the James. He planned to capture Petersburg and cut the railroads supplying Richmond but was defeated by Beauregard in the Battle of Drewry's Bluff and shut up in his lines between the James and the Appomattox.

In June, the Federals, raiding southward, suddenly attacked Petersburg on June 9, a day ever memorable in the city's history.

When scouts reported that a column of Federal troops was advancing on the city, the courthouse bell was rung and couriers were dispatched to get together the old men and boys, and conva-



DUNN'S HILL. *Here is an old and unusual box lane. The beautiful home represents two periods of architecture. Date of construction unknown. It is referred to in Latrobe's Journal.*





*Home of General William Mahone at Petersburg.*

lescents at the hospitals well enough to bear arms. These were ordered to go at once to the Confederate works on the Jerusalem Plank Road.

The old men and boys who here made the defense of Petersburg are unparalleled in this or any other war. Nobly they fought, only 125 strong, with poor arms, no training, and behind only the frailest of defenses, until "surrounded, men fighting the enemy before them were shot in the back by the enemy behind them." With their sacrifice, they held the Federals at bay for nearly two hours, until reinforcements arrived. These formed on

CLAREMONT. *On the site of the village of the Quioughcohannock Indians. Visited by first settlers in 1607. Mansion built about 1700 by Major Allen, who received title to the land by grant in 1681. Recently owned by Mrs. Wm. H. Coker; now owned by Mrs. Ronald Balcom.*





GENERAL WILLIAM MAHONE (1826-1895), Engineer and Soldier. *Builder of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad (1858). Major General, C. S. A., distinguished himself and his commands in a number of engagements. "Hero of The Crater" (Petersburg).*



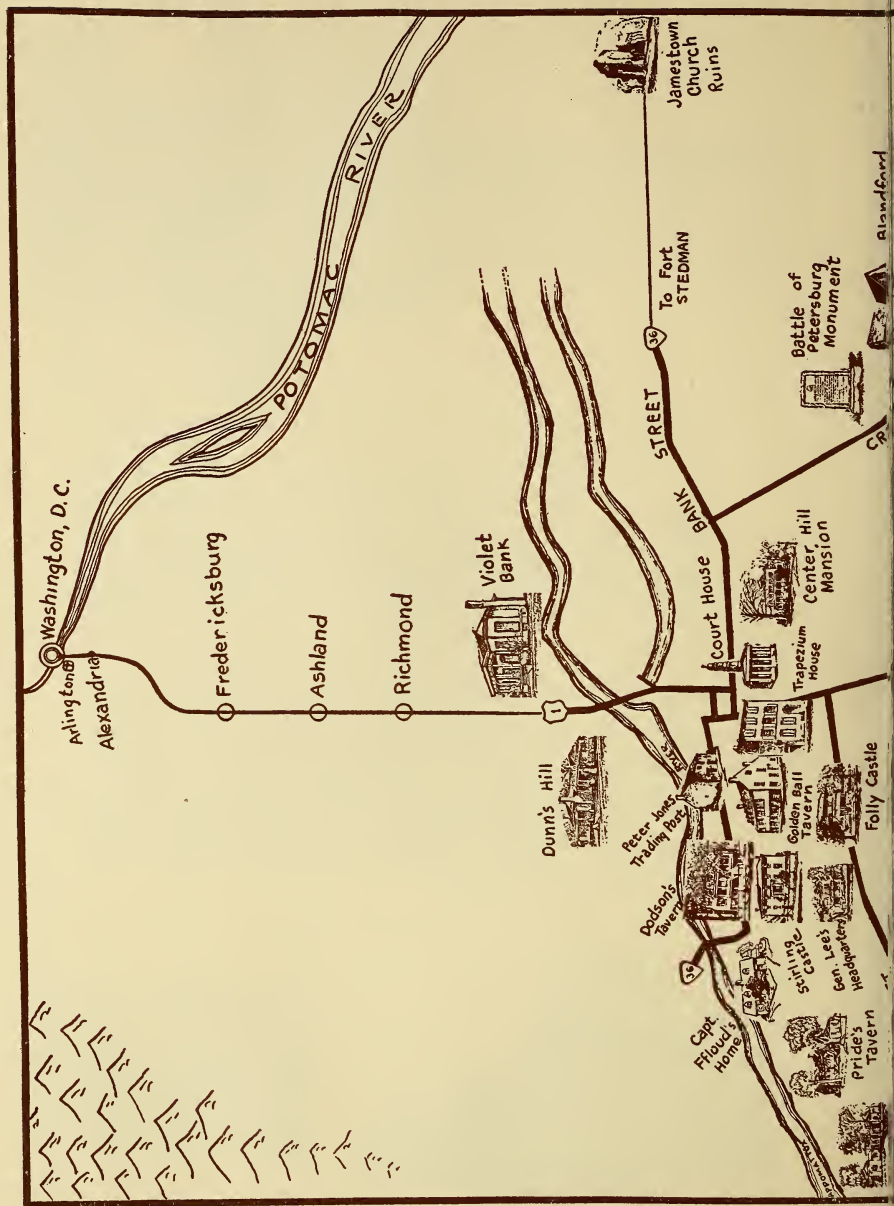
Cemetery Hill and later at Water Works Hill, and successfully defended Petersburg. The heroism of this small group is one of the most heroic deeds in American history.

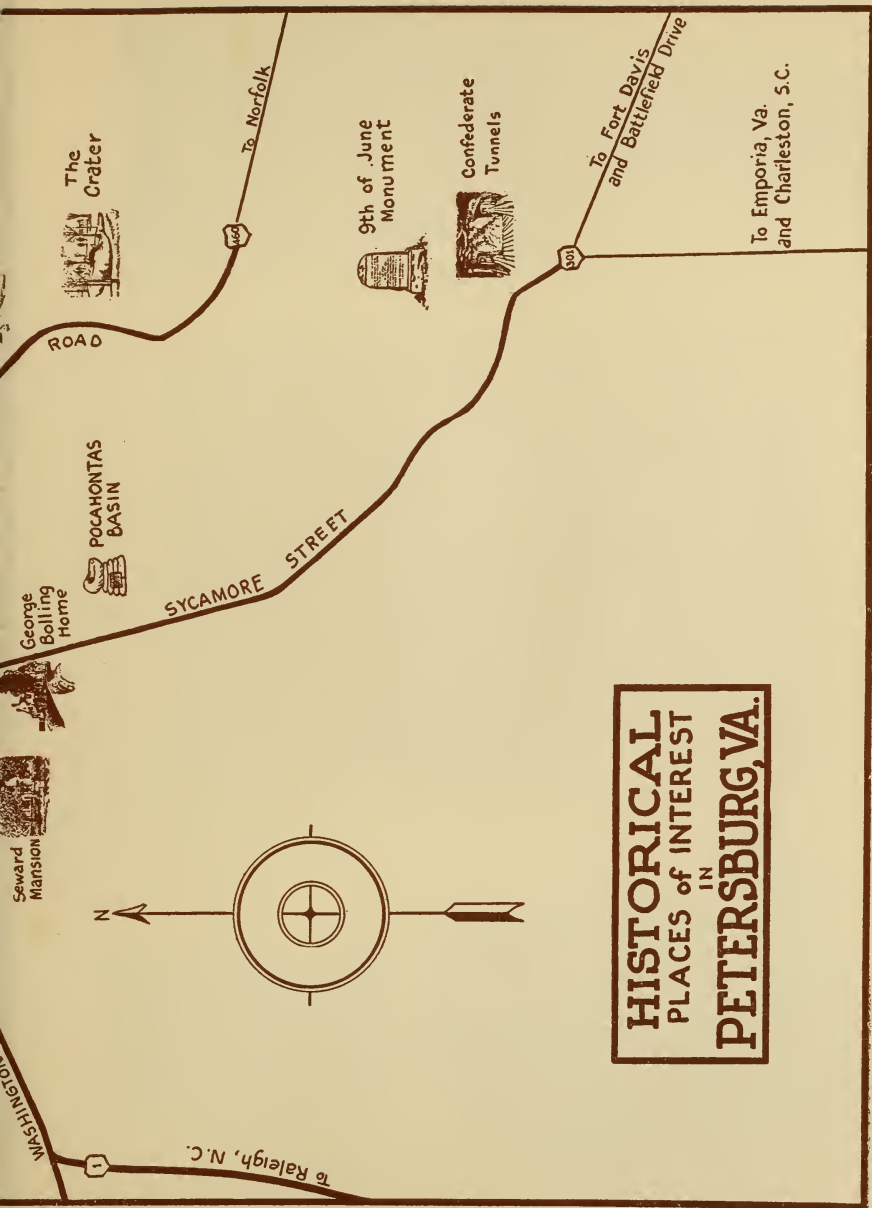
## THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER

Later the same month, Grant adopted McClellan's strategy of attempting to capture the Confederate Capital through Petersburg. His plan was to take Petersburg, divide Lee's army, and thus end the war then and there.



HALF-WAY HOUSE. Headquarters of the Union Army of the James. A central point in the Battle of Drewry's Bluff, May 16, 1864. Built in 1760.

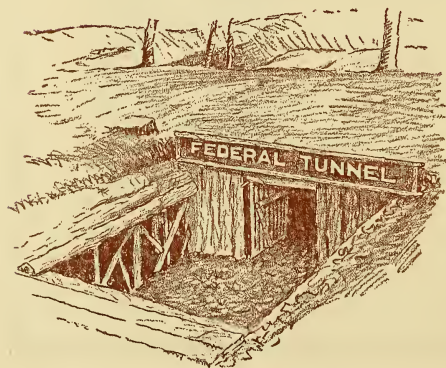




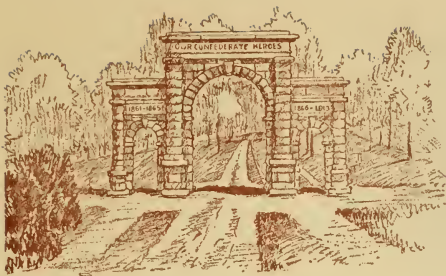
**TUNNELS (Confederate).** *A system of underground tunnels built by Confederates, presumably for countermining.*



Crossing the James at Weyanoke in June, 1864, Grant suddenly appeared before Petersburg and attempted to carry the city by assault. The effort continued through four days of battle, resulted only in pushing the Confederates back to the heights beyond Petersburg around old Blandford Church. Here both armies threw up great earthworks parallel to each other and in some places only seventy-five yards apart. The Confederate defenses protected the railroads to the south and southwest on which they depended for supplies. The Federals were in possession of the valley and hills beyond the



**TUNNELS (Federal).** *This was a part of the Federal tunnel system, constructed as living quarters for officers and soldiers during the siege. Nearby is a series of tunnels constructed to counteract Confederate activity.*



CONFEDERATE ARCH. *This is the entrance to old Blandford Cemetery. Soldiers of six wars are buried here. These include 30,000 Confederates.*

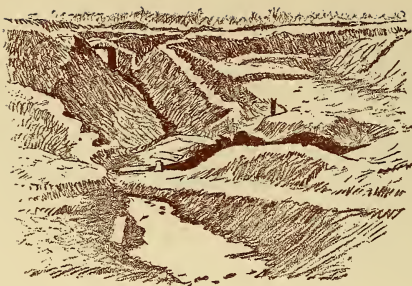
James. The siege, which was to last for ten of the bitterest months of the war, began.

Acting on the suggestion of a mining engineer, Colonel Pleasants of Pennsylvania, Grant decided to dig a mine under the Confederate line and open a gap through which to rush a tremendous force for the capture of Petersburg. The tunnel was begun back about 500 feet and advanced to a point directly beneath Elliott's salient, a fort of considerable strength. Here 8,000 pounds of powder were laid. Sixty-five thousand men were massed for the thrust

GEORGE WASHINGTON BOLLING HOME. *Built in 1785. Miss Mary Marshall Tabb Bolling left from this, her father's home, for St. Paul's Church to be married to General William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee.*







CRATER, 1865. *It was here that four tons of powder were exploded under the Confederate fort in an attempt to take Petersburg.*

which was planned for the morning of July 30, 1864.

An attempt was made by the defenders, who had secured advance information of what was up, to frustrate it. Several countershafts were sunk in an endeavor to locate the mine, and several batteries were placed to sweep the salient.

The zero hour arrived. At 3:30 o'clock the fuse was lighted. But something went wrong and after a nerve-racking wait of an hour there was still no explosion. Two volunteers entered the tunnel and relighted the fuse. Shortly thereafter occurred a terrific explosion. The fort was blown to pieces,

THE CRATER TODAY. *This is a view of the "Crater Battlefield" prominent in the history of the War Between the States.*



*APPOMATTOX MANOR. Part of land grant by Charles I to Francis Eppes, 1635. Eight generations of one Eppes family have owned and lived on this land. Original house torn down in 1751. Grant had his base of operations here 1864-1865, and Lincoln visited here in April, 1865.*



bringing instant death to nearly 300 defenders. The Federals poured into the gap, but due to faulty leadership and planning, and a prompt counter-attack by Mahone's Division, the ruse failed. The Unionists were caught between the fire of the Confederates on three sides. Four batteries swept the crater until it was literally filled with the dead and wounded. The Federals were disastrously defeated and driven back to their original lines.

Only siege operations were carried on against Petersburg thereafter, but all through the fall and winter of 1864 and '65, the town was wracked by the storm of shot and shell that swept over it. The thin Confederate line held, however, with wonderful persistency.



*BRANDON. Owned by the Harrison family for two centuries. Land patented by John Martin in 1617. The British general, Phillips, landed there in 1781. Now the home of Senator and Mrs. Robert W. Daniel.*

UPPER BRANDON. *A Harrison estate, well preserved. Unusually fine box hedge and trees. Original portraits from the Byrd collection here. Mr. and Mrs. F. Otway Byrd are the owners.*



In March, 1865, the campaign had become a contest in the extension of battle fronts, with the Confederate line more thinly manned after each extension. The situation of Lee's army was fast growing desperate. As a last resort, an assault was made on Fort Stedman. The capture of the fort was effected, but the effort to cut Grant's army in two failed, chiefly through the presence of mind of the Federal General Hartranft in directing reinforcements to the counter attack, and the absence of anticipated Confederate support.



WALLACE HOUSE. *Lincoln conferred with Grant in this house, April 3, 1865, preceding Grant's march to Appomattox.*



FORT STEDMAN, 1865. *Captured by the Confederates in a last desperate offensive before the march to Appomattox.*

On April 2, the defenses of Lee's right wing were broken by a Federal victory at Five Forks. This closed the line of retreat to the west. Orders were given to leave the trenches and the march to Appomattox was begun.

The retreating army was paralleled by Sheridan with a large force of cavalry, but the finishing blow was the loss of a supply train which through a mistake was sent to Richmond. There was nothing left to do but surrender, which Lee did at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865, precisely one week after leaving Petersburg. The long and bloody War Between the States was at last ended.

FORT STEDMAN TODAY. *A part of the Petersburg National Military Park.*







### BLANDFORD CHURCH

Old Bristol Parish Church on Well's Hill, now known as Old Blandford Church, is so ancient that it was given up as a place of worship in 1800. Of unmistakable colonial architecture, records show that it was built between 1734 and 1737.

The church and cemetery overlook one of the most noted fields of the War Between the States. The Battle of the Crater took place on the flats just below, and the remnants of a brick wall which surrounds the church shows clearly the storm of shot and shell that swept the building.

After lying neglected for more than a century, the Ladies' Memorial Association took up the work of restoring the church as a memorial to the Southern soldiers buried around and near its battle-scarred walls. They were successful in restoring the church in all faithfulness, and today it is one of the most beautiful places in the United States.



*The following poem, written on the walls of the church in 1841, "Has been ascribed to different writers living and dead." (Page 95, "Bristol Parish," by Slaughter). Among these was Tyrone Power, an Irish Comedian of Waterford, Ireland.*

Thou art crumbling to the dust old pile!  
Thou art hastening to thy fall!  
And round thee in thy loneliness,  
Clings the ivy to thy wall;  
The worshippers are scattered now,  
Who knelt before thy shrine,  
And silence reigns where anthems rose  
In days of "Auld Lang Syne."

And sadly sighs the wandering wind,  
Where oft in years gone by,  
Prayers rose from many hearts to Him,  
The Highest of the High.  
The tramp of many a busy foot  
That sought thy aisles, is o'er,  
And many a weary heart around,  
Is still forever more.

How doth ambition's hope take wing!  
How droops the spirit now!  
We hear the distant city's din;  
The dead are mute below.  
The sun that shone upon their paths  
Now gilds their lonely graves,  
The zephyrs which once fanned their brows,  
The grass above them waves.

Oh! could we call the many back,  
Who've gathered here in vain,  
Who've careless roved where we do now,  
Who'll never meet again;  
How would our very hearts be stirred,  
To meet the earnest gaze,  
Of the lovely and the beautiful—  
The lights of other days!



**CENTRE HILL.** *This house, built by Captain Robert Bolling about 1825, still bears scars received during the Federal bombardments in 1864-1865. President Taft was entertained here at the reception following the erection of the Pennsylvania Monument in 1909.*

## PETERSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The construction of the Petersburg National Military Park consisting of over 2,000 acres was begun in 1926. It includes the principal areas over which the fighting around Petersburg took place during the ten month siege. The park includes the property on which is located the "crater" and the Crater Battlefield.

Visitors are urged to take the trip to the park where the full story of the most elaborate siege in

**NINTH OF JUNE MONUMENT.** *Commemorating the spot where old men and boys fought to save Petersburg from Federal capture, June 9, 1864.*



THIS STONE MARKS THE SPOT WHERE  
THE OLD MEN AND BOYS OF PETERS-  
BURG UNDER GEN. R. E. COLSTON AND  
COL. F. H. ARCHER  
125 STRONG  
ON JUNE 9TH, 1864  
DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN A  
FIGHT WITH 1500 FEDERAL CAVALRY  
UNDER GEN. KAUTZ GAINING TIME FOR  
THE DEFEAT OF THE EXPEDITION.  
PLACED BY THE PETERSBURG CHAPTER  
U. O. C. MAY 1909

**DINWIDDIE COURTHOUSE.** *Sheridan coming here from the east, pushed on beyond. He was attacked by Pickett, March, 31, 1865, and driven back to this place. Darkness saved him from defeat. In the night Pickett withdrew to Five Forks. He was followed and defeated by Sheridan the next day.*



American history will be told by friendly attendants and guides. This service is free to all.

Start your tour at the information station located at Battery Five on the Hopewell Road. The route traverses the scenes of the Battle of June 15-18, 1864, and passes Fort Stedman, Colquitt's Salient, Gracie's Dam, and Forts Haskell and Davis. In this sector also occurred the Battle of the Crater and the assault on Fort Stedman. Continuing westward, the route passes Forts Alex Hays, Wadsworth, Urmston, Wheaton, Fisher, Welch, and Gregg (Federal). Continuing to the Confeder-



**SOUTH CAROLINA MONUMENT.** *Erected by South Carolina Division, Daughters of the Confederacy, in honor of General Elliott and his South Carolina soldiers who fell on the Crater Battlefield on July 30, 1864.*

CAMERON FIELD. *The Petersburg High School athletic field was donated to the city by the Cameron family. It is a natural amphitheater seating nearly 5,000 people.*



ate line of defense, the route takes in Fort Gregg (Confederate), Rohoic Dam, Fort Lee, Battery Pegram, Fort Walker, and the site of Fort Mahone.

Several notable engineering feats may be seen, including both Federal and Confederate tunnels dug for mining operations or listening posts. Visitors may also visit the secondary system of works outside the park limits and the battlefield of Five Forks.



MAINE MONUMENT. *Erected by the State of Maine in memory of 604 men of the First Maine Heavy Artillery, who fell here charging in a vain effort to break the Confederate line, June 18, 1864.*



COUNTRY CLUB. *The Petersburg Country Club is located on a site which saw activity in the War Between the States.*

## PEACETIME PETERSBURG

Although known historically mostly for its bravery and heroism in time of war, Petersburg has also contributed greatly to the arts of peace. It has been a haven for refugees from other lands, among them Sir William Skipwith, who fled here from England to escape the vengeance of Oliver Cromwell, and John Daly Burke, noted Irish statesman and historian, who found a home here after the rebellion of 1798.

Among famous visitors to this city in times of

DOUGHBOY MONUMENT. *This is one of many memorials to the veterans of the World War.*





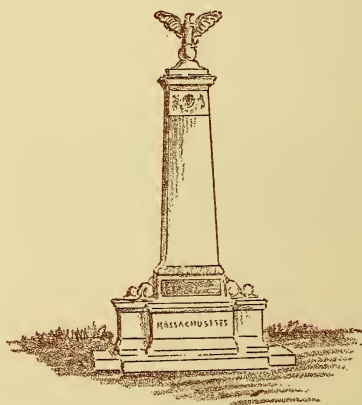


BLANDFORD LODGE. *This building has been the home of Blandford Lodge since 1826. The original charter, drawn up in 1757, is now enclosed in a glass covered frame set inside a fire proof vault.*

peace were Washington and Lafayette. Lafayette was entertained here in 1824 while on a return visit to the country whose independence he helped to secure.

In 1866, the women of Petersburg formed a memorial association to honor annually the men and boys who defended the city on the 9th of June, 1864. Several years later, Mrs. John A. Logan of

MASSACHUSETTS MONUMENT. *Erected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts "to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of Massachusetts who lost their lives in the armies of the Potomac and James in the various battles in Virginia, 1861-1865."*



**PETERSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY.** Formerly the home of Mrs. William R. McKenney, who gave the building to the city for use as a public library in 1924. This is a modern public library, maintained by the City of Petersburg, containing 33,000 well selected volumes and serving the cultural, recreational, and educational needs of the city.



Illinois visited Petersburg and, learning of these exercises, interested her husband, General Logan, in the idea of a National Memorial Day. From this came the enactment by Congress establishing May 30 as the National Decoration Day.

Petersburg was also the first city in the United States to have a public health department. It was established about 1780.

Today Petersburg is known throughout the length and breadth of the land as a cultured, indus-



**PENNSYLVANIA MONUMENT.** On the site of Fort Mahone. Erected by the State of Pennsylvania in honor of the soldiers of the 3d Division, 9th Corps, Army of the Potomac, in the War Between the States.

**HOTEL PETERSBURG.** *Built to provide a home for people away from home, to contribute to the happiness and comfort of all who come to our city. Here the stranger finds a friendly, homelike atmosphere, restful and inviting; typical of traditional Virginia hospitality.*



trious, self-reliant city, the flower of a state whose ideal is independence. Modern, yet Petersburg has kept alive the traditions of old Virginia.

Here there are many fine schools, hospitals, churches, a modern library, everything to make life more pleasant and more joyous. Here, the ideals of a great state flourish to new heights. The people are good citizens, thrifty, simple in outlook and generous in viewpoint, loving their homes and homeland with a fidelity unsurpassed throughout the world.



**CITY HALL.** *The seat of the city's Council-Manager form of government. Built originally as the Customs House in 1856.*

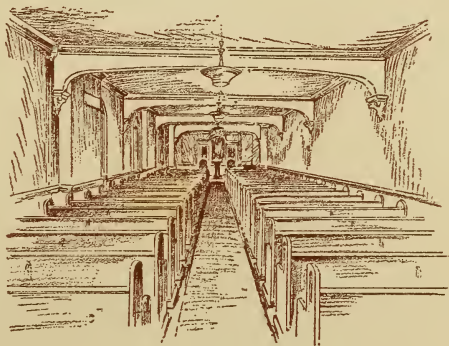


*This funeral home is equipped to serve all faiths and creeds. It offers every modern convenience, slumber rooms, guest room, private consultation rooms, and air-conditioning.*

This booklet has been published to show our appreciation of the confidence the people of Petersburg and Southside Virginia have had in J. T. Morriss & Son, Directors of Funerals since 1856.

All of you are invited to call at your own convenience to visit and inspect this establishment. The competent, friendly staff welcome the opportunity to show you that this firm tries to deserve the public confidence it enjoys by keeping facilities and equipment modern; and by showing the utmost courtesy to all.

*A spacious, churchlike chapel where an atmosphere of religious worship helps make the funeral service a comforting, beautiful memorial.*







MR. JAMES T. MORRISS, FOUNDER

In 1848, a quiet, courteous, Christian gentleman came to Petersburg and began working for a furniture and undertaking establishment. J. T. Morriss was a friendly man whom people learned to love. In 1856, he opened his own establishment on Bollingbrook Street. A policy of service based upon a deep, sincere love for his fellowmen brought such unusual success as an undertaker that in 1880, he sold his furniture business to devote himself exclusively to funeral work. When he died, after 42 years of service to Petersburg and vicinity, he was proud to leave his family a spotless reputation for honesty and fair dealing. To keep that reputation spotless, and to carry on those principles of sincere love and faithful service, has been and always will be the guiding policy of this firm.

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